

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 138370
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:DSUMMERS

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R 011313Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138370

EXDIS MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT KHARTOUM 2442 ACTION SECSTATE JUNE 1

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2442

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, CG, FR, BE, SU

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE

REF: PARA 7, STATE 137343

1. WILL THE SUDAN CONCUR IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE? HAD I BEEN ASKED THIS QUESTION AS RECENTLY AS TWO OR THREE MONTHS AGO, MY ANSWER WOULD HAVE BEEN A RESOUNDING AND UNQUALIFIED "YES". IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, MY JUDGMENT IS THAT THEY WILL PRIVATELY WELCOME SUCH A FORCE AS AN INDICATION THAT THE WEST IS AT LAST WAKING UP TO THE DANGER POSED BY THE SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA. THEIR PUBLIC POSITION, HOWEVER, MIGHT WELL BE MORE CIRCUMSPECT.

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PAGE 02 STATE 138370

2. SUDANESE POLITICAL BEHAVIOR ON AFRICAN MATTERS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DOMINATED BY SUDAN'S PROSPECTIVE PRESIDENCY OF THE OAU. IF SUDANESE PERCEIVE THAT ISSUE OF INTER-AFRICAN FORCE IS SERIOUSLY DIVISIVE AMONG OAU MEMBERS, THEY MAY WELL TRY TO STRADDLE THE ISSUE AND AVOID TAKING A PUBLIC POSITION. OTHER FACTORS IN SUDANESE THINKING WILL BE THEIR DESIRE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA AND (TO A MUCH

LESSER DEGREE) LIBYA.

3. DESPITE THESE NEGATIVE FACTORS, HOWEVER, I THINK THE EFFORT TO PERSUADE THE SUDANESE PUBLICLY TO SUPPORT SUCH A FORCE IS WELL WORTH THE TRY. FOR THAT REASON, I WOULD HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION TO CONSULT WITH THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. I WILL PROBABLY BE ACCUSED OF MIXING APPLES AND ORANGES, BUT IF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES SUPPORTING THE INTER-AFRICAN FORCE WERE TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF SUDAN AS A STABILIZING ELEMENT ON THE CONTINENT, AND INDICATE SOME READINESS TO ASSIST SUDAN IN ITS PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, OUR TASK WOULD BE MUCH EASIER. BERGUS. UNQUOTE VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 138370
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY:MARK LISSEFELT,EUR/WE

APPROVED BY:EUR:MPARRIS

SS-O: MVKENNEDY

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INFO RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 2050

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138370

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 138370 ACTION USCINCEUR DATED
JUNE 1, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A
L STATE 138370

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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